



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

Contact: Kevin Kerstein  
Publicity Manager  
Churchill Downs Racetrack  
(502) 635-4712 (office)  
(610) 420-6971 (mobile)  
[Kevin.Kerstein@KyDerby.com](mailto:Kevin.Kerstein@KyDerby.com)

## KENTUCKY DERBY CONTENDER BRAVAZO BREEZES AT CHURCHILL DOWNS

**LOUISVILLE, Ky. (Friday, April 13, 2018)** – Risen Star (Grade II) winner **Bravazo** began his serious preparations for the Grade I, \$2 million Kentucky Derby Presented by Woodford Reserve on Friday morning when he breezed five furlongs in 1:01.20 at Churchill Downs.

Bravazo stepped on the track at 5:30 a.m. EDT and worked through splits of :12.80, :24.80 and :37, before galloping out six furlongs in 1:16.40, according to Churchill Downs' clocker **John Nichols**.

"It was a really good maintenance work," Hall of Fame trainer **D. Wayne Lukas** said. "He was getting over the ground well and we will do more with him in his next two works."

Owned and bred by **Calumet Farm**, Bravazo broke his maiden at Churchill Downs in his second-career start on Sept. 16 by 4 <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> lengths. Following a runner-up finish in the Oct. 7 Breeders' Futurity (GI) at Keeneland, a third-place effort in the Street Sense and a sub-par 10<sup>th</sup>-place effort in the Kentucky Jockey Club (GII) at Churchill Downs, Bravazo won his 3-year-old debut in a first-level allowance race at Oaklawn Park.

Most recently, the Awesome Again colt finished a troubled eighth in the March 24 Louisiana Derby (GII).

Through eight starts, Bravazo has been ridden by **Angel Arroyo**, **Jon Court**, **Gary Stevens** and the injured **Miguel Mena**. As of Friday morning, the colt does not have a rider confirmed for the Kentucky Derby.

"We don't have a jockey confirmed quite yet but we're getting really close," Lukas said.

Lukas and Calumet Farm have a storied history in the Kentucky Derby. Calumet won the Derby a record eight times (22-8-4-1): **Whirlaway** (1941), **Pensive** (1944), **Citation** (1948), **Ponder** (1949), **Hill Gail** (1952), **Iron Liege** (1957), **Tim Tam** (1958) and **Forward Pass** (1968). Lukas is a four-time Kentucky Derby-winning conditioner (48-4-1-5): **Winning Colors** (1988), **Thunder Gulch** (1995), **Grindstone** (1996) and **Charismatic** (1999).

There are five horses likely in the Kentucky Derby field, including Bravazo (Barn 44), stabled at Churchill Downs: **Flameaway** (trainer Mark Casse, Barn 36); **Free Drop Billy** (Dale Romans, Barn 4); **Lone Sailor** (Tom Amoss, Barn 29); and **Promises Fulfilled** (Romans, Barn 4).

Training hours at Churchill Downs are 5:30-10 a.m. with two renovation breaks at 7 a.m. and 8:30 a.m. Derby and Oaks horses will have an exclusive training window beginning Saturday, April 21 through Thursday, May 3 from 7:30-7:45 a.m.

**DOWN THE STRETCH** – Derby Week stakes nominations close Saturday. To nominate:  
<https://www.churchilldowns.com/horsemen/stakes/nomination-forms/>.

-END-